

Final Report to 21st Century Tiger

*From Data to Action:
Curbing Wildlife Crimes in Sumatra, Indonesia*



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SUMMARY

In January 2003, a Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU) was established in Lampung, a province in southern Sumatra where populations of tigers, elephants, and primates are under high hunting pressure. The unit, comprised of members from the Department of Forestry Species Protection and Nature Conservation (BKSDA Lampung), ALAS Indonesia and WATALA (two local groups based in Lampung), Alliance of Indonesian Journalists (AJI Lampung), and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), serves as a field unit to monitor and control wildlife trade, and provides technical assistance in due legal process. In doing so, WCU works closely with law enforcement agencies across Lampung, and with other conservation groups across Sumatra.

Government agencies provided important official and logistical support during this first year. WCS's role has been to train partners, design the monitoring program, providing assistance in gathering evidence and reporting of violations, providing assistance in preparing legal briefs, publicizing the progress of cases, and serving as the coordinator for activities and planning. Local NGOs played have played an important role in obtaining confidential information using their broad network. Equally important, Alliance of Indonesian Journalists (AJI) also played an important role in monitoring the court proceedings and providing intensive media coverage.

During the past year, WCU has been able to achieve the following.

- We have collected critical information from key informants from which led to a high number of arrests and cases to enter judicial dockets (12), and official investigations (33).
- Of the 12 cases that WCU has provided assistance, three of the cases received the *highest sentences for wildlife violations in Indonesian history* including two tiger and rhino sellers receiving sentences of 4 years and 3 months, and 3 years and 6 months, respectively, and three marine turtle traders receiving a penalty of 2 years and 5 months.
- During our efforts to seize evidence, 634 animals (mostly primates and birds) were confiscated and released to the authorities.
- We were able to convince the Governor of Lampung and Bupati of Western Lampung to encourage the public including senior government officials to surrender their wildlife to the authorities.
- A joint program with Wildlife Rescue Centre (WRC/Pusat Penyelamatan Satwa/PPS sponsored by the Gibbon Foundation) and BKSDA Lampung also has succeeded in recovering over 138 protected animals from owners in Bandar Lampung, Metro, and Pringsewu.
- The program has generated over 30 articles in local and national newspapers and magazines.
- The program has developed an outreach program in order to heighten awareness by decision-makers and the public. A newsletter devoted to WCU activities and wildlife trade concerns, *Satwa Liar* ("Wildlife"), is published on a monthly basis. Leaflets and a simple guidebook on wildlife protection and protection laws have

been distributed throughout Bandar Lampung and Metro, the two largest cities in the Lampung Province.

- Community support for WCU activities finally led to the formation of Lampung Wildlife Care Forum (Forum Peduli Satwa Liar Lampung/FPSLL) and strengthening capacity building of Nature Care Students (Mahasiswa Pecinta Alam) Lampung University in Bandar Lampung

A combination of strong collaboration between government and non-government groups in investigations, monitoring of protected areas and places of wildlife sales, legal support, media coverage have all led to a very successful start of the WCU program. With greater media coverage and stronger working relationships, we believe that the WCU program will have a significant impact on the wildlife trade in Sumatra and throughout Indonesia.

INTRODUCTION

Across the Sumatran landscape, people are hunting tigers and prey species at unsustainable rates. Although there are protection and monitoring efforts within protected areas, these measures are simply not adequate to sustain tiger population for the long term. Tiger and other wildlife sales in Sumatran cities are common, and poachers who are caught released without due process of law. Unless the sale of tiger parts cease through rigorous prosecution, all other efforts in the field may prove to be futile.

Lampung province covers two important national parks that contain significant tiger populations - Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBSNP) and Way Kambas National Park. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has been working to save tigers in BBSNP since 1996, carrying out long-term research, monitoring, and anti-poaching program together with the Indonesian Department of Conservation (PHKA), WWF, and Rhino Protection Units (RPU). We have been working at Way Kambas National Park since 1999, focusing primarily on elephant conservation

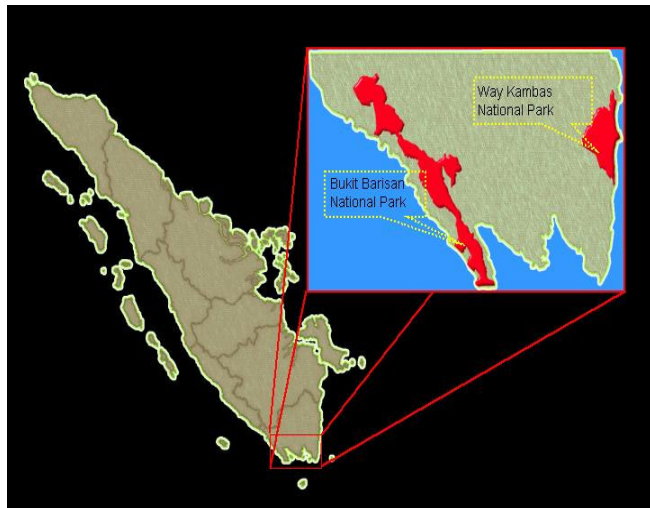


Fig. 1. Map of Sumatra with inset of key forests in southern Sumatra containing tigers.

but also assisting with park patrols. Research by WCS and the Tiger Foundation indicates that there are now 40-45 tigers in BBSNP and 30-40 tigers in WKNP, respectively. There is on-going monitoring of tiger and prey populations at BBSNP, and the Tiger Foundation is just beginning to establish Tiger Protection Units at WKNP. Now with most of the field data in hand, the WCS team is working closely with governmental and non-governmental entities to develop priorities, create a plan for the conservation of Sumatran tigers, and implement a conservation strategy.

Even with this set of activities, there is a major gap in the system. Planning exercises and our experiences reveal that all tiger conservation activities - research, monitoring, patrolling, and awareness - will be virtually futile unless conservationists address problems related to the legal system. Between 1970 and 1993, Indonesia supplied nearly half (3994 kg, 44.5%) of an estimated 8,951 kg tiger bones exported to East Asian countries, all exported illegally. Parts of tigers and other protected species (e.g., sambar, elephants) continue to show up in local markets around Lampung. Since 1997, thirty-two tigers have been reported to be poached from Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBSNP). Clearly, the high estimated level of tiger poaching is unsustainable.

Although the wildlife trade issue is receiving attention from senior government officials, it is not yet the highest conservation priority for the Indonesian government, and the public in general are not aware of the laws and value of conserving wildlife.

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) have addressed these problems by:

- establishing a field unit, the Wildlife Crimes Unit (WCU) that works closely with law enforcement agencies in order to put an end to rampant tiger and other wildlife sales;
- providing financial and legal support for the prosecution of poachers and traders;
- working with the media and communities to heighten public awareness of the illegal hunting and wildlife trade issue.

The WCU program also aims to:

- extend and strengthen the coverage for monitoring of tiger poaching;
- promote and strengthen the technical and legal capacity of PHKA, police and Indonesian legal institutions to curb Sumatran tiger parts trade;
- and strengthen coordination to improve the active participation of and support from relevant Indonesian law institutions in law enforcement of Sumatran tiger trade.

This work is part of a long-term collaborative program and with a purpose of developing a larger national program that can institutionalize the framework and therefore work to curb illegal hunting and wildlife trade across Indonesia.

METHODS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In general, the Unit collects information from key informants and monitors places of wildlife sales, and arrests violators. The unit also serves as a rapid response unit, which assists park rangers on their call with arresting process, gathering evidence, and later, providing expert testimony during court proceedings. By combining expertise and resources of its members, WCU addresses all critical aspects in the law enforcement process, and thus ensuring a full coverage of activities to ensure the protection of tigers and other wildlife in Southern Sumatra.

The Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU) in Lampung was established in January 2003. The Unit is comprised of members from WCS, BKSDA (Species Protection and Nature Conservation within PHKA) Lampung, Alliance of Indonesian Journalists (AJI Lampung), and local NGOs (WATALA and ALAS Indonesia). Harry Alexander, WCS's Policy and Legal Officer, and Dwi Nugroho, WCS biologist and team leader, provided unit members with training on species identification, wildlife crime concepts, issues and techniques related to advocacy and law enforcement to combat hunting and wildlife trade.

In addition to training, the first three months were spent working out a partnership framework. Strong partnership, an ever-increasing importance to conservation efforts in Indonesia, is an underlying principle for all the work that WCS carries out in Indonesia. Discussions concerning institutional partnerships became rather bogged down due to a number of factors. First, establishing formal relationships between government and local and international NGOs is a difficult one in that each group has different reporting and administrative context in which they operate. Second, because WCS designed and facilitated the program, perceived and potential inequity problems became a prominent issue. Despite these problems, all the groups were able to come to an agreement on the partnership¹. At present, all groups sit on a WCU board which is chaired by the head of BKSDA Lampung.

Patrolling

Patrolling activities were conducted undercover because the main target species (tigers, rhinos, and elephants) are not traded openly. The WCU team is divided into two divisions - the investigation team and response team. Target sites including areas around Bukit Barisan National Park, Way Kambas National Park, pet markets, bus and train stations, and seaports around Lampung were visited and investigated covertly by the investigation team. When target species were identified during the visit, the team alerted the response team, who then prepared to cover these sites. Patrolling was conducted three days per week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) on an average of 5 - 10 hours per day at each site. However, given the high wildlife trade at the Bakauheni seaport, which connects Sumatra and Java, patrolling at this site sometimes extended to 24 hours



Fig. 2. WCU members and authorities arresting violator.

of wildlife sales, WCS and other groups carry out monitoring and patrolling within protected areas in order to provide conservation presence in forests, and gauge whether protection interventions are having a positive impact on wildlife populations.

Between June and December 2003, WCU has spent a total of 571 man-hours patrolling in Bandar Lampung City. WCU team targeted their investigation at the wildlife markets in Bandar Lampung and Tanjung Karang train station, where target species being transported to other cities in Sumatra, Java, and Bali (Figure 3). This station is also connected to a large bus station that provides a connection between Bandar Lampung and Jakarta.

¹ A formal agreement has been drawn up and signed by each institutional head. The agreement is for one year, and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

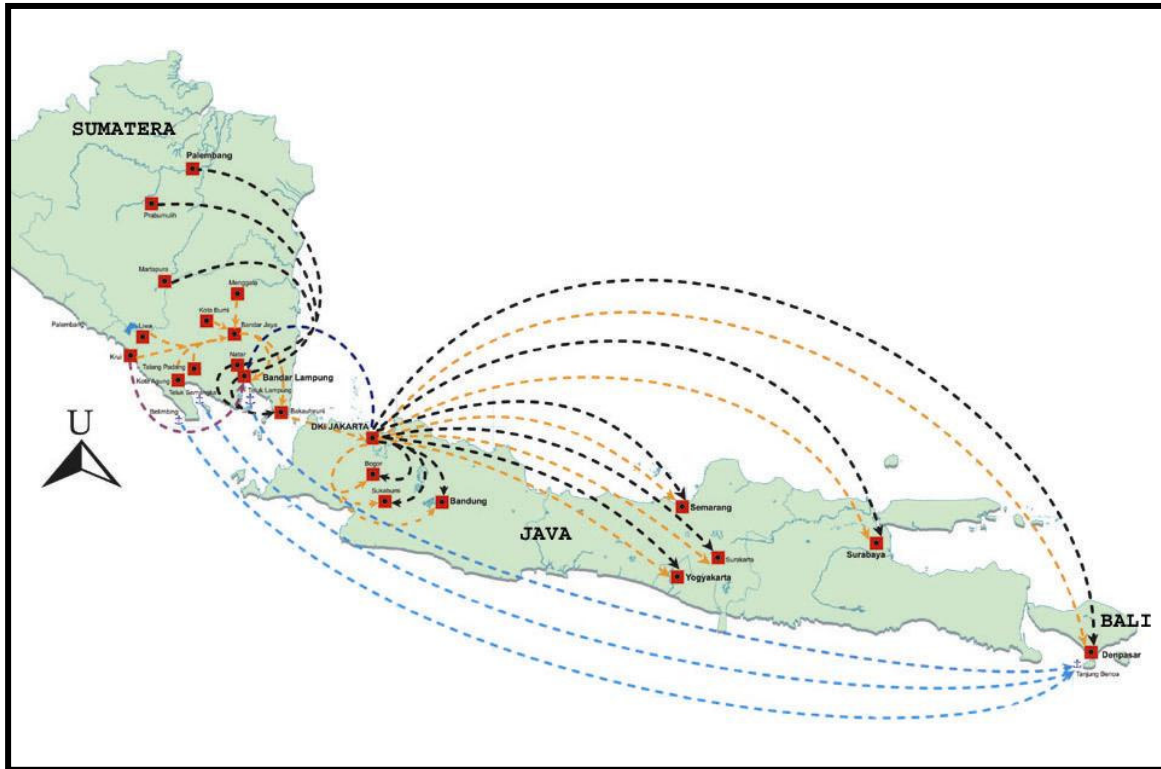


Figure 3. Illegal Trade Routes from Tanjung Karang to Cities in Sumatra, Java, and Bali .



Turtle route

Sources from Lampung, Kalianda, Kiloan Bay and west side of Lampung coast.

Destination: Tanjung Benoa, Denpasar (Bali).

Protected species: Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Pacific Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), Flat-back Turtle (*Natator depressus*)



Birds, primates, and other mammals route

Source from Palembang, Prabumulih, Martapura, Kotabumi, Suoh, Kruai, Bandarjaya, Talangpadang, Pringsewu.

Destination: Pramuka and Jatinegara pet market in Jakarta, then distributed to main cities in Java, such as Bandung, Sukabumi, Bogor, Semarang, Yogyakarta, Surabaya, Surakarta, and Bali.

Protected species: Siamang (*Symphalangus syndactylus*), Slow Loris (*Nycticebus coucang*), Tarsier (*Tarsius bancanus*), Mitred leaf monkey (*Presbythis melalophos*), Lutung Sumatra (*Trachypithecus cristatus*), Sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*) Felidae, Falconidae, and Accipitridae.



Bat route

Source from Suoh and Kruai.

Destination: Bandar Lampung

Species: *Petropus spp.*

In collaboration with BKSDA, five main suspects were taken into custody as a result from 8 patrol operations at Tanjung Karang train station. They were caught carrying protected primate and/or bird species. From those operations, a total of 330 primates and birds were confiscated. This number increased another 304 specimens of primates, birds, and felids from our joint patrols with BKSDA and WRC at Bakauheni and Merak seaports.

We believe that our patrol activities have affected wildlife trade patterns at Tanjung Karang train station as shown by the decreasing number of illegal cases in consecutive months since we started our patrols in June 2003 (Figure 4). However, less systematic patrolling at other locations (e.g. wildlife markets, bus station, and seaport) did not allow a similar inference to be drawn. One of the aims of this pilot project was to show a fairly direct relationship between patrolling and a decrease in wildlife sales at a particular site. We hope to increase the resources and manpower in order to systematically target several key sites for patrolling.

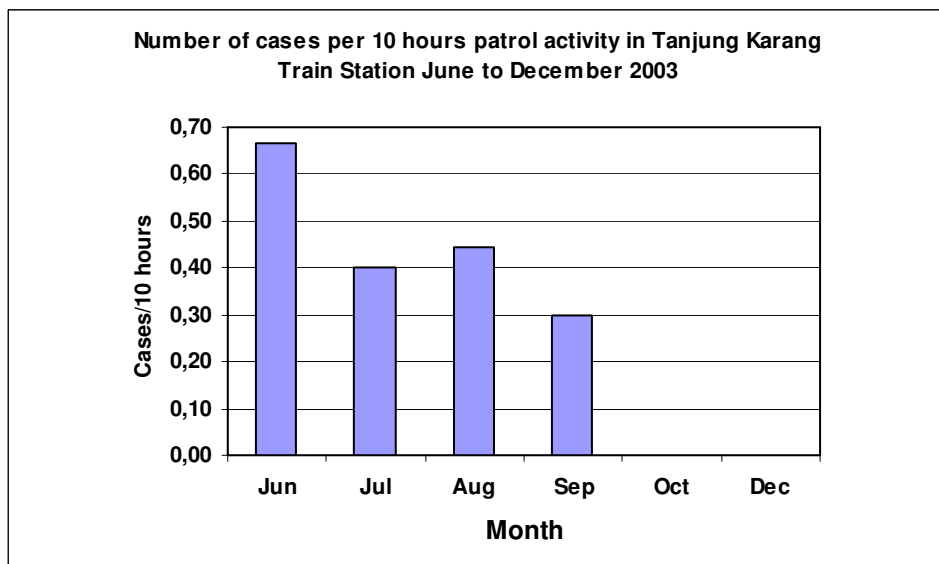


Figure 4. Patrol activity at Tanjung Karang train station from June to December 2003. The number of cases/violations decreased since WCU started its patrolling.

Investigations

The investigation team worked undercover to investigate target persons and sites. Once target persons and their holdings were clearly identified, BKSDA forest rangers and police officers, as a part of the response team were called in. Arrests and confiscations were carried out in a complete and timely manner. WCU also conducted investigations on people who kept wildlife pets and products (e.g., stuffed tigers) to check on their legal permits to keep these items. .

Between May and December 2003, WCU spent approximately 1246 man-hours conducting monitoring and investigation. These activities were targeted at illegal trade hotspots, including Tanjung Karang train station, Pasir Gintung market, and Way Kambas National Park (WKNP). Monitoring at the train station was conducted concurrently with the patrolling activities. Pasir Gintung was monitored for two days per week whereas monitoring at other sites around WKNP was conducted *ad-libitum*.

Our investigation at Tanjung Karang train station discovered a novel yet effective way of transporting wildlife. Old women pretending to carry agricultural items used a large public bus way, Damri, to transport protected wildlife. Because of their age, they were seen as unsusceptible to questioning and prosecution. At least ten old women were have been identified already, four of them have been arrested along with one male as their middleman. The wildlife packages, mostly birds and primates taken from protected areas in Lampung, were smuggled in plastic boxes by train and buses to Jakarta. This syndicate and its network depicted in Figure 9.

Monitoring and investigation, carried out around WKNP from 7-15 June 2003, led to the identification of several suspects, who involved in hunting and wildlife trading. Although we were able to collect evidence of illegal ivory and elephant part sales and identify the individuals involved in the trade, due to the social status of the individuals involved in the trade, we were not able to bring them to court. We will continue to monitor those sites and apply political pressure to bring these individuals to court.



Figure 5. Tiger bones for sale during investigation.

We carried out a brief survey of households in Bandar Lampung to see to what extent traders keep wildlife products in their homes for storage. We did this in realization that uncovering these items in their private property could provide stronger evidence of their involvement in the wildlife trade. Between May and August of 2003, we recorded a total of 74 preserved wildlife products, which comprised of 35% cats (including tigers, Fig. 6), 0.04% sun bear, 17.6% deer, 0.22% birds of paradise, and 20.3% ivory. Most of the owners come from private sectors, followed by government employees and military. The data on individuals will be kept on file in case these individuals are targets of investigations in the future.



Figure 6. Stuffed tiger during a household survey.

Technical and Legal Assistance in Due Legal Process

WCU worked closely with forest rangers, police investigators, prosecutors and judges in order to provide legal documents, collecting evidence, develop legal precedence, and to ensure that due legal process is proper and timely. Once an arrest is made, WCU in consultation with WCS-IP Director and staff and law enforcement agencies selected high profile cases with the highest probability of a successful prosecution. Our target at the project onset was five such cases within this year to help build a strong portfolio of legal precedents that could later be used for future cases.

WCU succeeded in assisting nine cases of protected wildlife poaching and trading during May-August 2003 in Liwa and Tanggamus courts. *These cases led to perhaps the highest success rate in indictments against wildlife violators.* Sentencing varied with the lowest being 1 year and 6 month in prison to the highest two sentences of 3 years and 6 month in prison in addition to Rp. 300,000 fine, and 4 years and 3 months in prison and Rp. 300,000 fine to tiger and rhino traders. *These have been the highest sentences given out for wildlife violations in Indonesian history and set a national legal precedence for wildlife crimes.* Just recently (February 19, 2004), WCU was able to assist on handing out a sentence of 2 years and 5 months and a fine of Rp. 500,000 to three marine turtle traders. This sentence is the highest ever given to turtle traders in Indonesian history, and is a remarkable achievement given the insignificant sentences² given out for turtle trade violations. At present, we are assisting with three cases in Tanjungkarang court, two of which concern the illegal trade of ivory. The remaining case on green turtle poaching has granted fine to 3 convicted fishermen.



Figure 7. Sentencing of tiger and rhino traders.

Public Awareness and Media Coverage Strategy

Newspaper reporters from the Indonesia Journalist Association (AJI) are central members of WCU, participating in undercover investigations as well as reporting on the developments of cases. This increases the likelihood of greater media coverage, which contributes to the ultimate aim of reducing poaching and trading pressure through a heightened public awareness, particularly those engaged in the illegal buying and selling of protected species. Furthermore, the media serves as watchdogs for legal proceedings to ensure minimal level of corruption, as these journalists are independent. WCU facilitated consultative meetings with regency and provincial government, central government, and the members of Regional House of Representatives (DPRD) to promote and ‘socialize’ conservation laws. To reach a wider audience, WCU employed messages and interviews on TV and radio.

² The highest sentencing given to a turtle trader previous to WCU assistance was one year and no fine. The context in which this happened is the trade of thousands of marine turtles between Bali and source locations of which a large number of arrests have been made.



Figure 8. Director of Department of Forestry's Species Conservation leading discussion on WCU program.

In September 2003 WCU, in collaboration with BKSDA Lampung, Wildlife Rescue Center, with support from government agencies at both provincial and national level, held a discussion forum and press conference to raise public awareness on the conservation of protected wildlife in Lampung area. The forum succeeded in gaining people's commitment to legally register their wildlife pets and wildlife products. To galvanize the effort, WCU with the help from media enlisted the support of the Governor and Bupati to encourage the public and high-ranking officials to surrender their wildlife willingly. One-hundred and thirty eight animals were surrendered

through this campaign.



Figure 9. WCU's outreach campaign at University of Lampung.

To reach wider audience WCU also arranged several outreach and campaign programs to high school students in Bandar Lampung and Metro, two of the largest cities in Lampung. During the activities, newsletter, leaflets and a simple booklet containing information on protected wildlife and related regulations were distributed. Wildlife pictures were included in the campaign packages to attract students and people attention.

Through these efforts, WCU has developed strong relationships with major media agencies in Lampung and Jakarta. To date, more than 30 articles on WCU activities and achievements have been published in national and local media. The list of articles published in newspaper and magazine are as follows:

- 1) *Menjerat Para Penjerat Satwa Liar* by Idi Dimiyati. Akar (a Lampung based newspaper). June 9, 2003.
- 2) *Poaching in National Park* by Harry Alexander. Jakarta Post. April 11, 2003.
- 3) *Memburu Sindikat pemburu Satwa Liar* by WCU team. Akar. April 14, 2003
- 4) *Animal rescue* by WCU. Lampung Post. May 29, 2003
- 5) *LSM: Itu sudah dari Dulu, Bukan Rahasia Lagi. Lampung.* RADAR Lampung. April 29, 2003.
- 6) *Law Enforcement Lingkungan Dimulai* by WCU. Lampung Post. 24 Juni 2003
- 7) *Perdagangan Satwa Liar Gunakan Wanita Renta* by WCU. Lampung Post. 2 Agustus 2003
- 8) *Poaching and illegal trading of wildlife.* Talk show on Trans TV (National Television). Jakarta, May, 2003.

- 9) Hunting And Illegal Trading Of Tiger Rhino And Elephant. Seputar Indonesia. (A News Program At RCTI, A Television Station With National Network). Jakarta. May 15, 2003.
- 10) Poaching And Illegal Trading Of Wildlife. Talk Show On Local Radio (RRI Lampung). June, 2003.
- 11) Suharto (Regent) possess a lot of wildlife by WCU. Lampung Post. 16 August 2003.
- 12) Rhino horns value is 10 month jail by WCU. Akar. 20 August 2003.
- 13) Forest Rangers arrest illegal trader of 327 eagles by WCU. Akar. 20 August 2003
- 14) Illegal protected wildlife traders raid by forest rangers by WCU. Lampung Post. 20 August 2003
- 15) Suharto (Regent) liberated 8 birds by WCU. Radar Lampung. 24 August 2003.
- 16) BKSDA returned 250 wildlife to their habitat by WCU. Lampung Post. 28 August 2003.
- 17) BKSDA accepted 80 wildlife by WCU. Lampung Post. 9 September 2003.
- 18) Prohibit extinct of wildlife by WCU. Radar Lampung. 12 September 2003.
- 19) Wildlife discussion by WCU. Lampung Post. 12 August 2003.
- 20) Hunting protected wildlife in city, Akar magazine, 9 September 2003
- 21) Protecting of wildlife, Lampung Post 13 September 2003
- 22) After wildlife confiscating, continue with ivory operation, Akar bulletin, 24 September 2003
- 23) Lampung jadi incaran pencuri penyu, Kompas, 9 October 2003
- 24) Rambu-rambu pemanfaatan satwa liar, Lampung Post 29 November 2003
- 25) Terumbu karang di Teluk Lampung memprihatinkan, Kompas, 24 October 2003
- 26) Selama 2003, WCU sita 630 satwa di Lampung, Lampung Post, 29 December 2003
- 27) Mahalnya harga gading picu perburuan liar, Kompas, 28 January 2004
- 28) Perajin gading dipasok pemburu liar, Kompas, 29 January
- 29) Gajah mati tak selalu meninggalkan gading, Kompas, 6 February 2004
- 30) Orkestra alam yang selalu terancam, Kompas, 6 February 2004
- 31) Perlindungan, pengawetan, dan pemanfaatan, Kompas, 6 February 2004
- 32) Policy and Law on Protection of wildlife in Indonesia by Harry Alexander (in preparation).
- 33) Pocket book of Environment Rules (UU 5 Tahun 1990, PP. 7 Tahun 1999, PP.8 Tahun 1999) by WCS (draft distributed but in prep for a more comprehensive version)
- 34) Field Guide book of Protected Indonesian Wildlife by WCS.

OTHER

WCU, in collaboration with other local NGOs, has initiated Lampung Wildlife Care Forum (FPSLL) which will act as a counterpart to WCU in carrying out campaign to foster greater awareness of wildlife conservation.

CONCLUDING NOTE

A combination of strong collaboration between government and non-government groups in investigations, monitoring of protected areas and places of wildlife sales, legal support, media coverage have all led to a very successful start of the WCU program. We feel that

we have been successful in encouraging legal institutions and non-government groups to work together to enforce protection laws. Never before have wildlife crimes received such serious attention in Indonesian courts as shown by the number of cases entering the dockets and the seriousness of the penalties. It is too early at this stage to conclude whether WCU efforts have indeed put a serious dent in the illegal wildlife trade. However, we believe that this program has increased capacity of those in law enforcement agencies and NGOs, established a system of monitoring and patrolling, provided a system of checks and balances to reduce corruption and weaknesses, created significant legal precedence for wildlife violations, heightened awareness among decision-makers and the public, and sparked interest of non-professionals to conserve wildlife. As stated in previous documents, the primary aim of this program is not to incarcerate people. The primary aim is to use these penalties as a tool to warn present and potential violators – both buyers and sellers – about the seriousness of buying and selling endangered species. With greater media coverage and stronger working relationships, we believe that the WCU program will have a significant impact on the wildlife trade in Sumatra and throughout Indonesia.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to thank Sarah Christie from 21st Century Tigers and the Zoological Society of London who provided support and encouragement. We wish to thank members of the European Association of Zoos and Acquaria who helped develop and sustain the 21st Century Tigers campaign. We also wish to express our thanks to our partners on the ground: Department of Forestry (PHKA); BKSDA Lampung; Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park; Watala; Alas; Aliansi Jurnalis Indonesia; Lampung police; Wildlife Rescue Center in Lampung; Lampung media; Governor of Lampung and Bupati of West Lampung; and the staff of CANOPI in Lampung. In addition to 21st Century Tigers, the Wildlife Conservation Society provided funding for this project.



SATWA LIAR

Buletin Konservasi Satwa Liar Wildlife Crime Unit Lampung



Doc.WCU Lampung

Siapa Bakal Terjaring Razia

Deadline atau batas waktu yang dikeluarkan Badan Konservasi Sumberdaya Alam (BKSDA) Lampung sudah berakhir sejak 20 September lalu. Menurut rencana, BKSDA akan segera merazia pemilik satwa liar dilindungi. Razia akan dilakukan secara bertahap, mulai dari Bandar Lampung lalu menyusul kabupaten/kota lainnya.

BKSDA juga tengah mengkonsolidasikan rencana razia tersebut bersama dengan Polda Lampung dan beberapa LSM lingkungan yang konsen terhadap penyelamatan satwa liar. Kesepakatan yang sudah dicapai, razia akan dilakukan secara merata terhadap semua pemilik satwa liar dilindungi, baik yang masih hidup maupun yang sudah diawetkan.

Kepala BKSDA Lampung Ir. Puja Utama MSc, menegaskan saat razia pihaknya akan mengambil langkah-langkah

hukum. "Tidak ada kompromi lagi. Semua akan diproses secara hukum," tandasnya.

Jelas ini ancaman bagi pemilik satwa liar yang masih bandel. Tenggat waktu penyerahan sudah lewat. Tak ada alasan tidak tahu sosialisasi kebijakan ini.

"Hampir dua bulan penyerahan dianggap cukup. Koran sudah muat hampir tiap hari," terang Dwi Nugroho, Koordinator WCU Lampung yang ikut rembukan dengan BKSDA tentang rencana razia.

Berat memang. Tim kini sedang bergerak untuk identifikasi. Ketahuan, jelas bakal berurusan dengan penegak hukum. Tapi, bila memang punya niat ikut menyelamatkan satwa liar, itu bukan ancaman. Serahkan saja satwa dengan niat baik dan jelaskan niat baik kepada petugas. Siapa tahu masih ada dewi fortuna yang bakal meringankan anda. ***

Pejabat Antre Serahkan Satwanya

Pagi itu Walikota Bandar Lampung Drs. Suharto menyerahkan satwa sejumlah langka dilindungi yang selama ini dipeliharanya kepada BKSDA Lampung (23/8). Acara penyerahan dilakukan di rumah Walikota, kawasan Labuhanratu Kedaton, Bandar Lampung.

Satwa dilindungi yang diserahkan dari jenis burung, yaitu 3 ekor burung merak, sepasang burung jalak, sepasang burung cendrawasih dan seekor burung jalak putih. Burung-burung tersebut dimasukkan ke dalam sangkar dan dibawa dengan dua buah mobil kijang minibus dan sebuah truk. Seekor merak terpaksa di pangku petugas karena panjang ekornya melebihi volume kandang.

Ternyata, Suharto bukan satu-satunya pejabat yang menyerahkan satwa liar dilindungi. Dari daftar pemilik satwa di BKSDA terdapat beberapa nama pejabat daerah Lampung lainnya.

Oemarsono misalnya. Mantan Gubernur Lampung itu menyerahkan burung kakaktua serta seekor harimau awetan. Lalu Bupati Lampung Utara Hairi Fasyah. Ia menyerahkan empat ekor satwa liar peliharaannya.

Markas Polda Lampung juga menyerahkan empat ekor satwa liar. Wakil PD Pasar Bandar Lampung menyerahkan tiga ekor. Santori Hasan, mantan Bupati Tulangbawang juga menyerahkan tujuh ekor satwa liar miliknya.

Lalu, Kepala Disnakertran dengan seekor satwa, Kepala

Dinas Perikanan juga seekor satwa.

Selain itu M. Sariki, wakil ketua DPRD Tanggamus juga menyerahkan tiga ekor satwa liar peliharaannya. Terakhir, Ketua DPRD Lampung Abbas Hadisunyoto telah berkali-kali meminta kepada BKSDA untuk segera mengambil satwa peliharaannya.

Selain pejabat, nama-nama pengusaha tercatat ikut menyerahkan satwa liar. Mulai dari hotel Sahid Bandar Lampung, pengusaha Awang, dan sederet nama lainnya.

Jenis satwa yang banyak dipelihara pejabat dan pengusaha beragam. Mulai dari jenis burung seperti kakaktua, nuri kepala hitam, elang, jenis primata seperti simpanse, owa, malu-malu (kukang), monyet, lalu mamalia buas (harimau, kucing emas, beruang, hingga reptilia semacam buaya muara.

Cara mendapatkan satwa-satwa tersebut juga beragam. Tapi kebanyakan pejabat mendapatkan satwa liar itu dari hasil pemberian relasi. Ya, rupanya satwa liar telah dijadikan alat untuk mempererat hubungan dengan pejabat.

Ketika ditanya, motif pejabat memelihara satwa juga bermacam-macam. Sebagian karena hobi atau prestise. Tapi sebagian lagi, karena untuk menghargai pemberian teman saja.

Kebanyakan mereka mendukung penertiban satwa ini asal demi kelestarian.***

Figure 8. First issue of *Satwa Liar* (Wildlife) produced by WCU.

Figure 9. 'Grandma syndicate' that transports wildlife from Lampung to cities outside Sumatra.

